



PARISH PRIEST: Rev. Fr. Anthony Hastie **T:** 0191 816 1248
E: bulletin.stmatthew.ponteland@diocesehn.org.uk **W:** stmatthews-ponteland.org.uk
 24 West Road, Ponteland, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE20 9SX

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION | SUNDAY 28TH MARCH

Today's liturgy concentrates on two very different events, the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as Messianic King and the events of a few days later which culminated in his agonising and shameful death. This seeming end-point was to be reversed by the explosion of new life in the Resurrection after three days, an explosion which constituted God's vindication of Jesus' loving obedience and the affirmation that it has overcome and wiped out the sin of Adam, human sin. How much time did Jesus spend in Jerusalem? The Gospel of John recounts four separate visits to Jerusalem, whereas Mark (and Matthew and Luke, who follow Mark's outline) compresses all Jesus' Jerusalem ministry into one visit, inaugurated by the solemn entry, as narrated in the gospel we hear today before the procession with palms. This event is recounted by the evangelists in the light of their fuller understanding of Jesus after the Resurrection. We see the colourful, festal atmosphere of crowds going up to Jerusalem, waving palm branches as banners in their enthusiasm and singing as they march. Jesus and his disciples join in. But it may be only later that the significance of this event was grasped: this entry was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah about the Messiah coming into his inheritance, to complete his God-given mission and to proclaim peace to the nations. Matthew especially, writing for a community steeped in Judaism, actually quotes the prophecy and also the psalm-verse about 'him who comes in the name of the Lord'. He stresses that Jesus is this Son of David, whose eschatological kingship is about to be established.

Next week is known as Holy Week: how and when will you take time to listen to God and grow in holiness?

✠ THIS WEEK AT ST MATTHEW'S ✠

Sunday 29th March PALM SUNDAY	10:00am - Boyd, McKieran and Coughlan Families
Monday 30th March <i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	NO MASSES TODAY
Tuesday 31st March <i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	9:30am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10:00am MASS - Dan Campbell
Wednesday 1st April <i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	9:30am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10:00am MASS - Michael Oliver
Thursday 2nd April HOLY THURSDAY	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7:00pm - Boyd, McKieran and Coughlan Families
Friday 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY	COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 3:00pm
Saturday 4th April HOLY SATURDAY	NO MASSES TODAY
Sunday 5th April EASTER SUNDAY	10:00am - Michael Sherwin

✠ THE NEWS FOR THE PEWS ✠

A WARM WELCOME

to everyone who is joining us for Mass today.

THE OUTDOOR NOTICEBOARD...

Is now in use with useful information and the weekly Bulletin. Thank you to those who have had Masses offered over the last few weeks. We are now taking Masses for week commencing 19th April. Please use the specially printed Mass offering envelopes.

DIARY FOR HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday Mass is at 7pm *watching for one hour after Mass*
Good Friday Celebration of the Passion is at 3pm
Easter Sunday Mass at 10am

SVP MEETING

The next meeting on Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday) is cancelled. Members will now meet on Sunday 12th April.

DIOCESAN CONSULTATION PROCESS

We are required to contribute to the Pastoral Strategy of the Diocese. Please find time to log on to the diocesan Website at diocesehn.org.uk and read the toolkit document. The questionnaire starts on page 19. If you could respond to the parish email address.

THANKS FROM CAFOD

Thank you for your generous support this Family Fast Day - your kindness is helping families like grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. Find out how your donations are helping to build a better world at cafod.org.uk/thankyou

SECOND COLLECTION - EASTER SUNDAY

There is a second collection next weekend for Retired Priests. Any contributions are most appreciated.

OFFERTORY DONATION ENVELOPES

As we're nearing the start of the 2026-27 tax year, new boxes of donation envelopes will soon be available for collection starting from Sunday 5th April. Gift Aid donors will find a box marked with their name and number. There will also be boxes of envelopes without names or numbers, which you're free to take if you don't 'Gift Aid' your donations but still want to use envelopes to make regular donations. You'll find the boxes on the table in the lobby at the back of church next weekend. If you are a taxpayer, and you're able to make regular donations, we'd encourage you to become a 'Gift Aider'. That way the parish can claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. Just ask Father Hastie or Andrew Kane for a Gift Aid declaration form, and if you would like to use donation envelopes we'll provide you with a box of numbered envelopes as well. Further information, as well as instructions for setting up a standing order, can be found on the parish website.

BULLETIN ITEMS

Please ensure all items for the bulletin are with us by 5pm on a Wednesday.

Please email to **bulletin.stmatthew.ponteland@diocesehn.org.uk**



POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

For disarmament and peace
 Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Lenne PP. XIV